

**Wetlands, Wildlife Habitat, and Flood Hazards in the Cedar River Basin  
May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**What We (INRCOG) Do**

**1. Mission of the Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments (INRCOG):**

The Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments is a voluntary association of local governments established by state law serving the member jurisdictions in Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Chickasaw and Grundy counties. As a service and planning organization, it is responsible for coordinating, assisting and facilitating programs in Community and Economic Development that will benefit all governmental bodies in the INRCOG region. Emphasis is placed on intergovernmental communication and cooperation, accessing of funds, and the need for continuing, comprehensive planning.

**2. Current Projects and Efforts in the Basin:**

<b>Traditional</b>	<b>Post-Disaster</b>	<b>New/Emerging</b>
Planning (Land Use, Hazard Mitigation, Transportation, Housing)	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program-planning, safe rooms, sirens, infrastructure programs	Regulatory compliance
Ordinances (Zoning, Subdivision, etc.)	Jumpstart Programs-Business and Housing Assistance	Watershed management-Cedar River Coalition, management authorities,
Grant Writing (federal and state programs-planning, ED, infrastructure, housing asst.)	Post Disaster Community Development Block Grant-Infrastructure, Housing	Recreation-water trails with IDNR; watershed-based tourism and ED; park planning
Economic Development (EDD)-planning, infrastructure, marketing programs	Disaster Assistance (staffing, revolving loan fund, infrastructure)	Safety-transportation-related incident management, monitoring, enforcement
Transit	Floodplain management (local and statewide)	Security (homeland security grant program, regions)
Environmental (IDNR-IWE/SWAP, EPA programs)	Recovery management, assistance, and administration	Public Sector Procurement (RFQ, RFP, IFB, etc.)
Program Administration (Grants and Programs)	Water Resources Coordinating Council Subcommittee	Financial Management (fiscal agent responsibilities)
Transportation Programs (MPO and RPA)	Climate Change and Hazard Mitigation	Environment; Green Development
Recreation (Trails-land, Blue Zone, etc.)	Smart Planning Legislation and Implementation	Communications
Geographic Information Systems (GIS)	Iowa Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association	Downtown redevelopment
Safety (OSHA/IOSH, safe routes to schools, program)		Modal (transportation) Plans (bike, pedestrian, etc.)
Education, Associations		Area and Capital Improvement Plans-(sub-plans)

**3. Description of our Funding Sources and Prioritization:**

Federal, state, and local funds, and prioritization thereof, are managed by program and their requirements/administrative rules.

<b>Federal</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Local</b>
Economic Development Admin.	Program Funds	General Fund
Federal Highway Admin.		Tax Increment Financing
Federal Transit Admin.		In-Kind
Community Development Block Grant		Dues-COG Members
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program		
USDA		

**4. Collaboration with Other Disciplines:**

Work with the following regularly:

<b>Governmental</b>	<b>Organizations</b>	<b>Private Entities</b>
Federal (elected, agency staff, departments)	Professional Associations (NADO, APTA, APA, CoZO)	Architects, Engineers, Landscape Architects, Planners
State (elected, staff, committees, departments)	Function-Driven Organizations; Iowa Association of Regional Councils	Businesses, Economic Development Commissions, and Chamber of Commerce
Local (city and county-elected, staff, committees, departments)	Iowa Association League of Cities, Iowa State Association of Counties and its affiliates, Iowa Planning Association	Landowners
School Districts	Trail users	
University/Community College	Paddlers and Boaters	

How could our relationships be improved?

- Funding-Competitive; Reductions; Oversight/Transparency
- Staffing-Adequate, Training, Management, Oversight
- Regulatory-Ever-changing
- Consistency-Program Application, Design, and Implementation
- Outreach, Marketing, and Communication-Development; Website, Social Media
- Look Beyond Jurisdictional Boundaries-They do not always coincide
- Turf...

Brian Schoon, AICP  
 Director of Development and Transit  
 INRCOG  
 229 East Park Avenue  
 Waterloo, Iowa 50703  
 (319) 235-0311 Ext. 128  
 (319) 235-2891 Fax  
 bschoon@inrcog.org  
[www.inrcog.org](http://www.inrcog.org)

